
2015-2016 Community Influenza Surveillance Report Update of Current Status January 26, 2016

Overall assessment

Influenza activity in Middlesex-London is lower compared to previous reporting week.

Current Local Activity

From January 17th to 23rd, 2016, two laboratory-confirmed cases of influenza A were reported to the Middlesex-London Health Unit, both of whom were hospitalized. Since September 1, 2015, there has been a total of 15 laboratory-confirmed influenza cases (13 of influenza A and two of influenza B) reported in London and Middlesex County. Strain identification completed on an influenza A sample from London Middlesex by the National Microbiology Laboratory identified the strain as influenza A/California/07/09-like.

No influenza outbreaks have been declared since September 1st, 2015.

Appendix A provides more details about laboratory-based influenza activity indicators, as well as other local indicators of respiratory illness.

Useful Websites

- The latest Ontario Respiratory Pathogen Bulletin (ORPB), issued by Public Health Ontario (PHO), is available at <http://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/ServicesAndTools/SurveillanceServices/Pages/Ontario-Respiratory-Virus-Bulletin.aspx>
- The latest FluWatch report, issued by the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC), is available at: <http://dsol-smed.phac-aspc.gc.ca/dsol-smed/fluwatch/fluwatch.phtml?lang=e>
- To find a free flu shot clinic near you, visit the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care's "Find a Flu Shot Clinic" web page at <http://www.ontario.ca/page/get-flu-shot/>.

Appendix A

Summary of Community Influenza Surveillance Indicators for Middlesex-London January 26, 2016

Table 1: Summary of laboratory-based influenza activity indicators, Middlesex-London and Ontario, 2015-2016 influenza surveillance season

Indicator	Reporting Period	Number Reported: <i>Current Reporting Period</i>	Number Reported: <i>Year to Date (from September 1, 2015)</i>	Recent Trends
Laboratory-confirmed cases¹	Jan. 17-23	Influenza A – 2 cases Influenza B – 0 cases	Influenza A – 13 cases Influenza B – 2 cases	Lower compared to the previous week (Jan. 10-16) when six cases of influenza were reported.
Influenza sub-types¹	Jan. 17-23	Subtyping Influenza A(H3) – 0 cases Influenza A (H1N1)pdm09 – 2 cases Influenza A not subtyped – 0 cases Strain typing A/California/07/09-like-1 case	Influenza A(H3) – 3 cases Influenza A(H1N1)pdm09– 8 cases Influenza A not subtyped – 2 cases A/California/07/09-like- 1 case	
Hospitalizations¹	Jan. 17-23	2	7	Lower compared to the previous week (Jan. 10-16) when three hospitalizations were reported.
Deaths¹	Jan. 17-23	0	0	
Influenza outbreaks in long-term care homes/retirement homes/acute care	Jan. 17-23	0	0	
Percentage of samples that are positive for influenza (Ontario)²	Jan. 10-16	Influenza A – 4.2% positivity Influenza B – 0.1% positivity	N/A	Influenza A: Similar compared to 4.3% positivity reported the previous week (Jan. 3-9). Influenza B: Similar compared to 0.3% positivity reported the previous week (Jan. 3-9).

Notes:

1 Numbers are subject to change week by week due to the retrospective nature of reporting.

2 Public Health Ontario, Ontario Respiratory Pathogen Bulletin 2015-2016

Table 2: Summary of community-based respiratory illness indicators, Middlesex-London, 2015-2016 influenza surveillance season

Indicator	Reporting Period	Number Reported: <i>Current Reporting Period</i>	Recent Trends
Hospital emergency department and urgent care centre reports regarding the percentage of patients with fever and respiratory illness	Jan. 17-23	An average of 6.6% of patients presented with fever and respiratory symptoms. The proportion was highest at the paediatric emergency department, where an average of 18.4% of patients presented with a fever and respiratory symptoms.	Similar to 6.4% reported the previous week (Jan. 10-16). Lower than 19.8% reported the previous week (Jan. 10-16).
Absence reports from elementary schools (i.e., absenteeism > 10%)	Jan. 18-22	17 elementary schools from one school board reported an average absenteeism rate exceeding 10%.	Lower than the previous week (Jan. 11-15), when 26 schools reported increased absenteeism.
Sentinel x-ray provider – newly identified bronchopneumonia cases	Jan. 18-23	An average of 2.8% of chest x-rays performed were newly diagnosed bronchopneumonia cases.	Lower than 3.6% reported the previous week (Jan. 11-16).

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